

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 H-03 /043 W

----- 069772

R 061715Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7270

INFO AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSZ PORT OF SPAIN

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS TD BB JM BF

SUBJ: INS PROPOSAL TO AMEND REGULATIONS REGARDING VISA
REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN CARIBBEAN NATIONALS TRAVELING TO
PUERTO RICO AND THE USVI

REF: STATE 116753

1. ASSUME PROPOSED CFR AMENDMENT WOULD SPECIFY THAT NATIONALS
OF GRENADA ARE INCLUDED IN WAIVER NOW THAT IT IS INDEPENDENT
NATION. (SEE BRIDGETOWN 872 OF MAY 20, 1974 TO DEPT)

2. WHILE IT WOULD NOT BE UNDUE HARDSHIP FOR "BONA FIDE"
NON-IMMIGRANTS FROM WINDWARD ISLANDS (GRENADA, ST LUCIA,
ST VINCENT) TO TRAVEL TO BRIDGETOWN TO APPLY FOR VISAS, IT
WOULD BE A HARDSHIP FOR APPLICANTS FROM LEEWARDS TO APPLY
IN PERSON AT EMBASSY SINCE BARBADOS, WHICH IS CONSIDERABLE
DISTANCE SOUTH OF BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, ST KITTS, ANTIGUA,
MONTERRAT AND DOMINICA, IS SITUATED FURTHEST OF ALL THE ISLANDS
FROM PUERTO RICO AND U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS. EMBASSY WOULD,
THEREFORE, CONTINUE TO PROCESS MOST OF THESE APPLICATIONS BY
MAIL. THIS IN ITSELF IS NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY SINCE

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IT IS PREFERABLE, GIVEN CONDITIONS EXISTING LOCALLY TO INTERVIEW

EACH APPLICANT IN PERSON. EMBASSY HAS CONTINUED TO PROCESS NIV APPLICATIONS BY MAIL IN VIEW OF DISTANCES INVOLVED BETWEEN ISLANDS AND BARBADOS FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS SAKE AND MAINLY BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT AVAILABLE OFFICE SPACE TO HAVE ALL APPLICANTS APPEAR IN PERSON.

3. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT AMENDMENT'S INTENT IS TO PROVIDE FOR ISSUANCE OF VISAS WHICH RESTRICT ENTRY TO PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS AS DISTINCT TO ENTRY TO CONTINENTAL U.S. IF SO, VISAS FOR APPLICANTS PROCEEDING ONLY TO PUERTO RICO OR US VIRGINS WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARLY MARKED AS BEING VALID ONLY FOR THESE DESTINATIONS AND INS WOULD HAVE TO MAINTAIN STRICT CONTROLS AT AIRPORTS AND OTHER TERMINALS WHICH HAVE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTING FOR CONTINENTAL U.S. TO PREVENT ALIENS WITH SUCH RESTRICTED VISAS FROM PROCEEDING TO U.S. IF INS ALREADY HAS CONTROLS OF THIS TYPE, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE WOULD DERIVE FROM HAVING APPLICANTS APPLY FOR VISAS. IF SUCH CONTROLS DO NOT EXIST, THEY SHOULD BE PLACED INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.

4. EMBASSY SHARES CONCERN OVER NUMBER OF ALIENS ILLEGALLY EMPLOYED IN U.S. AND AGAIN WISHES TO MENTION THAT IT IS DISTURBED THAT A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS AT THIS POST ARE ILLEGAL "RESIDENTS" AND WORKERS IN THE U.S. HAVING PROCEEDED THERE, IN MANY CASES, SOME YEARS EARLIER ON NIV'S.

5. WHILE THIS POST WOULD BE HAPPY TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PROGRAM WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL RESIDENTS ALREADY IN U.S. AND PREVENT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THOSE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES, IT IS FELT THAT THE SOLUTION IS ONE THAT CONGRESS CAN BEST REMEDY BY PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION WHICH PROHIBITS EMPLOYERS FROM EMPLOYING ILLEGALS.

6. WHILE THIS POST HAS NO INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS FROM OUR DISTRICT WHO APPLY FOR ENTRY INTO PUERTO RICO OR THE VI WITHOUT VISAS UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PRESENT WAIVER IN 41.6(B), IT IS ASSUMED THAT VOLUME MUST BE CONSIDERABLE JUDGING FROM THE NUMBER OF INS REPORTS RECEIVED SHOWING APPLICANTS WITH "VISA WAIVERS" WHO HAVE BEEN REFUSED ENTRY.
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7. IF AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS GOES INTO EFFECT, DEPT MUST REALIZE THAT, DEPENDING ON ADDITIONAL VOLUME OF BUSINESS WHICH MUST BE EXPECTED, POST WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF AND OFFICE SPACE WHICH IS NOT AVAILABLE WITHIN THE PRESENT PHYSICAL LIMITS OF THE EMBASSY. (DEPT MAY WISH TO REVIEW EMBASSY'S OM OF APRIL 9, 1974 SUBJECT "OGEN: NONIMMIGRANT VISA ISSUANCE PROCEDURE" AND CONSULAR PACKAGES OF JULY 20,

1973 AND JANUARY 24, 1974 FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND REGARDING
VISA OPERATION HERE AND AMOUNT OF OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR
CONSULAR PROGRAM).
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